

January 2006

News from the
Southeast Region Civil Air Patrol
Col Matt Sharkey, Commander



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Puerto Rico Wing Conference

By 1Lt Kelly Green Sharkey and Maj Sonia Soto

The Puerto Rico Wing hosted its Wing Conference during the weekend of December 3 at the Wyndham Condado Plaza Hotel in San Juan, Puerto Rico, celebrating the community service missions and education opportunities experienced over the last year.

The conference was attended by over 200 delegates representing the seven groups from Puerto Rico and 6 representatives from Puerto Rico's Group 8 of the Virgin Islands.

Activities at this year's conference included sight-seeing tours for out-of-town guests, and an awards/recognition service, seminars, and a gala awards banquet.

Presenters included National Commander Maj Gen Antonio Pineda, Southeast Region Commander Col Matthew R. Sharkey, National Staff representative Marc Houchette, and PR Wing Commander Herman Liboy.

Liboy recalled the 2004 Wing Conference and said, "We

accepted Col Matt Sharkey's recruiting challenge last year and have performed remarkably... having a growth of more than 200 members." Col Sharkey expressed his pride in the wing's positive growth in his presentation, remarking that "the Puerto Rico Wing illustrates what can be done with hard work and enthusiasm." Mark Houchette mirrored the sentiment, stating "In a time of de-

crease, you have increased. You are setting an example for the rest of the nation to follow."

Nazario Lugo, Puerto Rico State Emergency Management Agency Director and guest speaker, offered his congratulations to the members for their hard work and service.

The banquet included a special guest from the Puerto Rico Air National Guard who presented Capt Giacomo Venza, the "Senior



Col Sharkey congratulates Capt Giacomo Venza, Puerto Rico's Senior of the Year 2005



Members applaud award recipients and special guest speakers

Development, Aerospace Education, Cadet Program, and Group of the Year.

During the awards presentation, the Puerto Rico Wing received the Paul W. Turner safety Award.

The Frank G. Brewer award

of the Year 2005" with an additional award. Group 7 swept the majority of categories including Professional

recipients included the Isla Grande Flying School, Organization, and C/LtCol Miguel Santiago, Cadet. 2Lt Yanisse Ferrer and 1Lt Ivelisse Peña won Life Saving Awards.



Jose Rafols is promoted to C/Maj

The NCO Cadet Awards went to c/MSgt Lizbeth Roman and C/MSgt Jose C. Valdez and the Cadet of the Year was C/LtCol David Irizarry.



Commander's Comments

Keep the Newness With You

When I joined Civil Air Patrol I was a teenager with no direction, no purpose, and no regular visits to the barber shop! It was an impressionable time in my life and I needed to find a “raison d’être” (French for reason for being). Joining gave me the opportunity to learn leadership skills, become dedicated to something bigger than myself, and enjoy the friendship and community the Organization provides.

At that age, there are a lot of new experiences to enjoy, but Civil Air Patrol offered me an opportunity to foster new friendships and experience a variety of great activities. My first encampment gave me a glimpse at the life of our military personnel, but the activity that got me hooked into being a member was participating in the NER Cadet Competition. Through CAP I accepted the challenge and responsibility of a new command assignment, especially being named as Cadet Commander and Wing Commander and now the Southeast Commander. (As a cadet, I would never have thought....)

I’ve enjoyed meeting aviation icons like Paul Garber, who told me stories about the Wright Brothers and Amelia Earhart. And Dr. Edgar Mitchell, who during dinner told me about his experiences as the sixth man to walk on the moon. And Scott Crossfield shared with me the thrill of being one of the first men to enter the walkway towards to the sound barrier.

Despite the awesome opportunities afforded me, I found that spark was needed to re-light the fire of volunteer service from time to time. What gets me re-charged? I have found through the years that attending encampments and cadet competitions help me remember the excitement of youth. Conferences and training events sparked a desire to learn and grow. Giving awards ranging from the Curry through the Silver Medal of Valor inspire me to excellence. Presenting 50 Year certificates make me aim for the future. And having dinner with the gang, playing games, and going on trips with friends reminds me of the greatest joy in CAP, that of having a second family.

Are you in a new year with hopes and goals for ’06, or are you in a season without “spark”? If you’re the latter, attend activities, go on excursions, be a friend, and start something. Remember why you joined in the first place, and pass that excitement along to someone else who might need it.

Mark Your Calendar

| | |
|-------------|---------------------------|
| 02-04 March | Winter National Board, DC |
| 07-09 April | GAWG Conference |
| 28-30 April | MSWG Conference |
| 28-30 April | ALWG Conference |
| 5-7 May | FLWG Conference |

Quote of the month:

*You can’t
direct the wind
but you can
adjust the sails.*



Happy Birthday Staff Members

Ray Hayden 1/1
Edward Kessler, 1/8
Brian Bluck, 1/8
Evelyn Holdren, 1/15
Mark Lighterman, 1/17
Matt Sharkey, 1/18
John Stokesberry, 1/25

Florida Cadets Attend Bivouac

By 1Lt Raya Vezina

Over the first weekend in December, 11 cadets and six senior members of the Northside Christian School Cadet Squadron received intense training and first-hand experience in land navigation in a bivouac at Camp Blanding.

To prepare, two special classroom sessions were a part of the regular squadron meeting in October and November. These classes covered basic topics such as how to read contour lines and terrain features, as well as how to plot grid coordinates, determine direction and bearing, and plotting azimuths on a map. Advanced instruction was given on how to read a compass and map.

The real test of the classroom learning occurred through the actual hands-on experiences. The cadets and senior members were divided into four teams and sent on three different missions during the day. Each mission took place in a completely different part of the camp.

For mission one, each team was given several compass and distance readings and sent on their way to locate blue markers in the

woods. These markers had to be located using only the compass and pace counts. The terrain was rough as everyone encountered downed trees, thick underbrush, and high earthen berms. These obstacles, as well as the debris from the previous year's hurricanes, made straight line direct headings to each point impossible. As a result each team was required to stop at regular intervals to verify their pace counts and azimuth readings.

Late in the afternoon all teams plotted a new course on grid maps of the base, increasing their skills in the use of protractors and mathematics. Mission two followed these maps through the woods and over a stream as unit members learned the importance of relating the actual geography and terrain features to the representations of the terrain

features as depicted on a flat map.

Finally, the much-anticipated third mission took place in the dark of night. Here teams had to rely solely on the accuracy of their pace counts and compass readings as the blackness of the woods made reading visual cues a virtual impossibility. Each team was given an objective and had to use

the natural ambient light of the night and the glow marks on their compasses to successfully complete the mission.

The weekend was a

success thanks to awesome teachers Lt Col McCormick and SMaj Michael Selitch of the US Army. Both work at MacDill Air Force base and are land navigation experts through their professional training.

1Lt Vezina is the Northside Christian School Cadet Squadron PAO



Group 8 cadets establish pace counts during weekend bivouac held at Camp Blanding, Starke

Hickman Presents at PRWG Conference

By 1Lt Kelly Green Sharkey

Lt Col William Hickman, USAF Southeast Liaison Region Commander, presented at the Puerto Rico Wing Conference December 3, praising members for their dedication, hard work, and membership in Civil Air Patrol.

In his discussion Hickman explained the increasing Air Force requests for CAP's services. "Civil Air Patrol is a full-force multiplier," said Hickman. Air Force decision makers are "floored, especially when they see how much

[using CAP] costs them" by freeing up military resources.

Hickman went on to express his pride in the Puerto Rico Wing, their exemplary safety record, and clean aircraft. Their professionalism made him "glad [they] are going to get the new glass cockpit C-172 in the upcoming year."

Lt Col Hickman was accompanied by MSgt Sam Heard, who is a Logistics expert in Col Hickman's command.

SER CC Col Sharkey was grate-

ful the two could attend. "I'm glad to have both Col Hickman and MSgt Heard on our team," said Sharkey. "They help us in innumerable ways to be a strong region and an excellent organization."



Lt Col William Hickman, USAF Southeast Liaison Commander

Tampa Florida Members Encourage Nursing Home Residents

By Maj Linda E. Trimpey

During the Operation Healing Voices event Saturday, December 3, seven cadets and two seniors sang and played for the residents of the James A. Haley Veterans Administration Medical Center nursing home in Tampa.

C/Maj Orlando Zambrano and C/Commander of the Tampa Cadet Squadron read a historical essay while the other cadets and seniors hummed "America the Beautiful" accompanied on piano. This was one of several patriotic songs sung. The group also sang various Christmas hymns and holiday carols. C/Maj Zambrano performed a violin solo.

The cadets then asked the residents about their military service and offered them cookies. Many are World War II veterans and one was a prisoner of war in a German concentration camp.

Many of the residents clapped after every song and many times voiced their appreciation by saying "that was wonderful!"



Cadets sing and recite for residents of the James A. Haley VA Medical Center nursing home

West Pointer Visits Mississippi Squadron

By Lt Col Joe Pope

The cadets of the Jackson, MS, James S. McKinnie Composite Squadron were visited by their former cadet squadron commander.

Cadet Robert D. (Robbie) Grete, a recent addition to the United States Military Academy, West Point, was a special guest at a Christmas reception planned and hosted in his honor.

The training hall was filled to standing room only with cadets, senior members, parents, grandparents and interested visitors, all eager to welcome Grete home for his very first Christmas leave. They were anxious to hear about his daily routines and his new life at West Point. He answered questions and shared with the attendees the process by which a new cadet becomes part of a highly structured, carefully managed, society of tradition and discipline at the Army's 204 year old military academy.



C/TSgt LeAnne Lovett and C/1Lt Benjamin Rowland pose with West Point Cadet Robert Grete

The audience was able to view a DVD of Beast Barracks phase, the cadet initial training regimen and introduction to the standards, physical conditioning, weapons qualifications, and basic infantry tactics taught to every new member. The description of his first days at the history-rich military academy, included what meals were like and the types of classes he is currently taking. He is especially thankful to have earned a place in a school that has produced some of our nation's most famous presidents, generals, astronauts, countless government officials and leaders in every corner of American society.

Robbie is a 2005 graduate of Jackson, Mississippi's, Veritas Latin School. He participated in school sports, church activities, community service and seven years in the Civil Air Patrol where he was a cadet squadron commander, and commander of the MSWG 2005 drill team. Robbie gives his family the credit for helping him maintain focus on his goals and at the same time encouraging him to take time to relax and have some fun. He explained that some simple things become treasures to new cadets, especially calls to and regular letters from parents and friends. A huge spirit lifter was to receive a big box of his sister's homemade cookies that he could enjoy and share with classmates.

He is the son of Mr. and Mrs. William B. Grete of Clinton, MS and was drawn to Army service by his grandfather who graduated with the West Point class of 1958.

Lt Col Pope is the PAO for the James S. McKinnie Composite Squadron, MSWG

Alabama Wing Participates in Tiger Fly Day

Submitted by Maj Patricia Mitcham

On December 10, 2005, Alabama cadets and senior members participated in Tiger Fly Day. Cadets from Shelby County, Pell City, Bessemer and Clay County gathered at Shelby County for orientation flying. They flew in the Alabama Wing's Maule and in Bessemer's C-172. Lunch was



Caleb Branch, C/SMSgt Travis Fulbright, C/SMSgt Joshua McCain and C/AB Tommy Bow-

man. The cadets were able to experience an orientation flight in the Alabama Wing's Maule aircraft based at the Shelby County

Airport. Following the orientation flight the cadets participated in a physical fitness test which in-

cluded a shuttle run, push-ups, sit and reach evaluation, and curl ups. Following the test they took a one mile "fun run." After the physical training exercises

the cadets from Clay County re-

ceived a tour of the National Weather Service Forecast Office located adjacent to the Shelby County Airport.

At Pryor Field, in Decatur, AL, senior members from Muscle Shoals, Pell City and Redstone provided orientation rides to cadets from Muscle Shoals and Redstone Composite cadets. Cadets Massey

Morgan, Jim Richard, and Kendal Renfro from Muscle Shoals, and cadets

Michael Johns and Zachary Hubbard from Redstone participated in the Tiger Fly Day at Pryor Field in Decatur, AL. Senior members from Redstone coordinating or flying cadets were Dani Richard, John Blakely, and Mike Johnson from Redstone. Chris Iddins and James Goswell came from Pell City, and James Hensley from Muscle Shoals. The FBO at Decatur assisted members in providing a Hanger-Cookout during Tiger Fly Day.



Cadet Morgan Massey



L to R Cadet Jim Rickard, Pilot James Hensley, Cadet Kendal Renfro

compliments of Lt Col Ward, commander of the Shelby County Flight. Clay County Flight AL-125 traveled to the Shelby County Airport to participate in the SER Tiger Fly Day with members of the Shelby County Flight and the Bessemer Squadron. Bessemer cadets who participated in Tiger Day: Cody Key, John Fuller, Devin Adams, Jordan Box, Christian Sanchez, Erinn Scott, Nathan Gates, and Jamie DeSpain. Senior Members from Bessemer were 1Lt Bob Krall (Pilot), 2Lt Ron Dudley, 2Lt Rosalind Fazal, Capt Jim Smiley.

Capt David Hester, Commander of Clay County Flight, and C/SSgt

*Information from:
1Lt James Smiley
Capt David Hester
Capt Dani Richard
Lt Col Johnny Ward*



Lt Col Johnny Ward talking to cadets at Shelby County Airport

Region Medical

By Lt Col Patricia Faunt

Health-Related Web Sites

Searching the Web for information on health, nutrition and drugs can become confusing. We must also consider the source of the information. Is it factual or bunk?



One of the sites I like is Quack-watch.org, it is operated by Stephan Barrett, MD. The primary focus is to combat health-related frauds, myths, fads, and fallacies.

Another site, considered to be a bible for physicians and nurses, is the Merck Manual, merck-homeedition.com. You can get information about diseases and conditions, also causes, symptoms, diagnosis, prognosis and prevention strategies.

Next is the American Academy of Pediatrics. It's a great starting point when you want information on children's health. It also has a parenting corner, health topics such as children's health, finding a pediatrician, immunization infor-

mation, car seat safety, and much more. Go to aap.org.

For women we have 4women.gov. It is a service of the Office on Women's Health (OWH) in the US Department of Health and Human Services. It works to improve the health and well being of women and girls in the United States.

The US Department of Agriculture's Food and Nutrition Information center is a great place to find dietary guidelines. It gives information on childcare nutrition, food safety, school meals, and more. Visit nal.usda.gov/fnic.

If you need to check on medications, go to The Drug Information database at the American Academy of Family Physicians website. This site will tell you what a drug can do, how to take it, when not to take it, and lists any adverse effects. Go to familydoctor.org/druginf.xml

Heart Problems? The American Heart Association website americanheart.org offers a wide array of practical information. There is a Health Tools section where you can find information, chats, and interactive pages.

The Cancer Society web page

cancer.org has detailed discussions about cancer prevention, drugs, and treatment. They have groups for patients, family and friends, survivors, health information seekers and professionals. You may also find out about activities, news or resources in your area.

Lt Col Faunt is the Southeast Region Nurse Officer

Georgia Plays Fair

During the recent Middle Georgia Fair at the Perry Agricenter fairground, CAP was requested to assist by providing aerial photographs of real-time traffic patterns and potential delays during peak attendance times to help Fair management and law enforcement officials keep traffic flowing as smoothly as possible. The Middle Georgia Composite Squadron and Group IV HQ provided staff qualified as Agency Liaisons, Air Branch Directors, and Radio Operators to work in the GEMA command post at the Fairgrounds and coordinate with their personnel and CAP aircrews that provided current aerial photos as requested during the fair.

GA Squadron Expands Facility

By Captain Jim Phillips

The Savannah Composite Squadron facilities in Savannah, Georgia will be expanded.

On 01 December, Captain Bob Olson, Squadron Commander, announced that the squadron had received final approval from the Savannah Airport Commission (SAC) for the squadron to acquire additional floor space. This enlarges the facility to eight rooms totaling 1,995 square feet. In addition, the



Squadron Patch

SAC recently approved the squadron's installation of a radio communication antenna on the roof of the building.

The long-anticipated expansion comes at a critical time as the Squadron, also known as the Flying Tiger Squadron, continues to grow in membership and missions and demonstrates itself as a valuable asset to the community.

The Tiger Den is housed in the former Delta Airlines flight operations center

within the former Savannah Airport Terminal Building complex. It is adjacent to Gulfstream, Signature Flight Support, and a flight line regularly occupied by not only CAPFLT 921, the squadron's Cessna 172, but military, civilian, and commercial aircraft.

The Squadron was originally formed in June, 1942 and uses the Flying Tiger name with the approval of the American Volunteer Group, the famous Flying Tigers of World War Two and the Civil Air Patrol.

Captain Phillips is Savannah Composite Flying Tiger Squadron PAO, GAWG

MS Members Ride Blackhawk

By Lt Col Joe Pope

Cadets and senior members of the James S. McKinnie Composite Squadron enjoyed a special experience December 7 as they ended the 2005 training year. The Mississippi Army National Guard's, Alpha Company, 1st Battalion, 185th Aviation, provided orientation flights in their UH-60 Blackhawk helicopters, for 25 members.

For the 18 cadets in the group it was a valuable addition to their aerospace studies program as all their 2005 orientation flights had been in CAP light fixed wing aircraft and the Mississippi Wing's

Switzer glider. The cadets study program covers the basic principles of rotary wing flight, but this was their first time to actually experience the power and versatility of a combat-proven aircraft that is



Jackson, Mississippi, CAP takes orientation flights aboard the Mississippi Army National Guard's UH-60 Blackhawk

used by every branch of the United States armed forces.

Lt Col Pope is the James S. McKinnie Composite Squadron PAO, MSWG

National Cadet Competition

The 2006 National Cadet Competition will be held at the National Air & Space Museum's Udvar-Hazy Center in Washington, DC, along with select venues in Herndon, VA 06 -11 July.

NCC 2006 will be governed by Rules of Engagement 5.4, available for download at http://level2.cap.gov/documents/ROE_54.pdf.



2005 National Cadet Competition Color Guard Winners from SER with SER Director of Cadets, Capt Vickie Meyer and SER Commander, Col Matt Sharkey

LtoR: Rodriguez, Taujours, Meyer, Sharkey, Culp, Hansson and Amadiz

Soldier Needs Support

We've recently celebrated a time of giving thanks and remembering our family and special friends, so be sure to remember "One Of Our Own," Col Gary Nelson who is now on his **fourth** deployment to Baghdad, Iraq. Col Nelson is currently serving as a staff officer for the Civilian Police Assistance and Training Team of the Multi-National Security Transition Command.

If you would like to send a note or email:

Colonel Gary Nelson

MNSTC-I/CPATT

APO AE 09316

gary.e.nelson@iraq.centcom.mil

Soldier Offer Thanks

Just wanted to write to you and tell you another story about an experience we had over here. As you know, I asked for toys for the Iraqi children over here and several people (Americans that support

us) sent them over by the box. On each patrol we take through the city, we take as many toys as will fit in our pockets and hand them out as we can. The kids take the toys and run to show them off as if they were worth a million bucks.

On a patrol, the lead vehicle reported a little girl sitting in the road and said she just would not budge. I soon saw her sitting there and in her arms she was clutching a little bear that we had handed her a few patrols back. I radioed that we were going to stop. As I knelt down to talk to her, she moved over and pointed to a mine in the road. It was a heart of acceptance, of tolerance, of peace and grace, even through the inconveniences of conflict that saved that convoy from hitting that mine.

If you sent over a toy or a Marine (or any US Service member) you took part in this. You are a reason that Iraq has to believe in a better future. Thank you so much for supporting us and for supporting our cause over here.

Semper Fi, Mark, GySgt / USMC

(Letter abridged)

Secret Santa

Each year the Georgia Department of Family and Children Services (DFCS) conducts a Secret Santa Program for children in the state's foster care system. This program distributes gifts to foster children during the Holiday season. DFCS needed help assembling and delivering the toys across the state.

The Bartow Etowah Squadron, supported by attached personnel from the Boy Scouts of America Troop 157 and Georgia State Defense Force 1st BN of Rome (GSDF), answered the call of Bartow County DFCS supervisor Gail McDaniel. The toys were all delivered to the DFCS office and littered the hallways. At this point the GSDF and CAP volunteers



SSGT Fleming GSDF and
CAP Cadet Zane Collins

arrived to sort and place the toys in deliverable packages, and drivers were assigned. Each organization donated several hours of time and lots of gas supporting this operation. One special delivery was made to Flint Michigan via Delta Airlines and Marriott Hotels.

During this operation, close to 300 homes were visited.
By 1st Lt John Clark

Holiday in the Park

Members of the Okeechobee Composite Squadron SER FL-453 participated in a "Holiday in the Park" event on November 30, 2005. Streets in the area of the downtown Okeechobee Parks off SR 70 were closed off to traffic to allow businesses, craftsmen, local non-profit groups and others to

exhibit their wares to the community. A special lighting ceremony took place in the park across from Okeechobee City Hall and the event, lead by Santa Claus, moved to the downtown parks.

The Squadron participated in



Okeechobee Composite Squadron
members at their recruitment booth

this event by setting up an awareness and recruitment booth. Squadron members informed the public about Civil Air Patrol and handed out CAP literature. Several interested perspective cadets were interviewed.

Tiger Day Flights and



Members of the Savannah and Augusta,
Georgia Civil Air Patrol squadrons

Members participated in an overnight encampment Dec. 16-18 under the command of SFO Carl Godbee and 1Lt Gary Rawlinson
Photo by Capt Phillips



Tiger Day in December, Puerto Rico, at
The Isla Grande Airport

A total of 42 cadets participated from three squadrons: Bayamon 3, Bayamon 6 and Aibonito Cadets Squadrons



Lt Col Bob Berlam of Naples Senior
with Marathon Squadron member

Members will become Air Force Auxiliary mission pilots or mission observers when they complete their training

Photo by Maj Avery Loucks

Squadron Celebration

Members of the Ormond Beach Florida Squadron gathered for a Christmas party and awards banquet.

Squadron Commander Lt Col Joe Wisniewski presented awards in the beautiful River Grill club room decorated by 2Lt Betty Wisniewski.

Guests included Col and Mrs. Matt Sharkey.



Col Wisniewski and Col Sharkey enjoy celebrating the season.

spiral ham and loads of sides and desserts, the little squadron had a big turnout for their holiday party on December 12, 2005.

The turnout was expected to be a total of 45 to 50 people. In actuality, 82 people came out for the event. Speaking on the large turnout, Lt Col Alvin Bedgood, Group 8 Commander said, "it means the organization employs effective communication;

and what they are doing."

C/SAM Kevin Rafferty wanted to organize the function as they hadn't had a holiday in a long time.

"I wanted to do something that would get all the cadets and their families involved, and I wanted parents to learn more about the squadron," said Rafferty. The squadron's newly-formed color guard posted and retrieved the colors for the evening's festivities. zee of the members of the color guard have been in the squadron for less than three months.

Holiday Bash

By Capt Michael Becker

On an average Monday night, the St. Petersburg Cadet Squadron, commanded by Capt Pleasants, boasts about 18 cadets and six senior members. Whether it was the thought of not having to drill, or the anticipation of roast turkey,

and it also means that the parents are genuinely interested in the cadets



Packed House enjoys holiday bash

Photo by Capt Michelle Becker

Activities Around the Region



Cadets Traver, Hoover, and Rawlinson pose with a vintage 1940s Ercoupe

Savannah Composite Squadron participate in a SAREX at Malcolm McKinnon Field on St. Simons Island, GA

Photo by Capt Phillips



The Lake City Cadet Squadron teamed up with the Suwannee Valley Food Bank in a holiday food drive

By day's end, the cadets had collected 1,540 pounds of canned and dry goods

Contributed by 2Lt M. Sweitzer



Puerto Rico Cadets enjoy O-Rides in SER's Tiger Fly Day

Orientation flights were flown by Lt Col Manuel Bracete, Lt Col Jose Vila, Capt Luis Luhring, Capt Miguel Castellon, Maj Hector Alicea and 2Lt Yamil Sánchez

Miami Cadets Have “Sand in Our Boots”

*By Capt Linus Gomez and
Lt Col George Navarini*

Cadet members of the Miami Beach Civil Air Patrol Squadron presented the Colors at the 7th annual “Sand in our Boots” Pearl Harbor Commemoration Ceremony in Miami Beach on December 7, 2005. Jointly organized by the City of Miami Beach, the American Legion, and the Colony Hotel, the “Sand in our Boots” Ceremony commemorates Miami Beach’s small but vital part in World War II history.

Between 1941 and 1943, U. S. Army and Naval officers trained in Miami Beach in preparation for their deployment overseas. Back then, open-air Saturday night dances and Sunday morning church services were celebrated at the very place today’s commemoration was held.

“The Miami Beach Cadet Squadron Honor Guard has been a proud part of this ceremony for several years,” said Capt Linus Gomez, Commander of the Cadet unit. “Thousands of service men practiced basic drill and ceremonies, along with advanced beach landings and maneuvers in prepa-

ration for the Allied invasions of Normandy and the Japanese-held islands in the Pacific. It is very fitting we honor them here today.” The ceremony was brief and

actively participates in numerous local and countywide ceremonies and activities, and it has been honored for its service by many organizations, including the American Legion, Veterans of Foreign Wars, Cuban American Veterans Association and Allied Veterans Association, as well as several local schools and organizations.

Members of the Miami Beach Cadet Squadron Honor Guard include C/SNSgt, Sara Umana, C/TSgts Adrian Amadiz, and Michael David, and C/Amn Brian Amadiz. Of particular note, two of the members of the Miami Beach Squadron Honor Guard were a part of championship-winning teams. C/

TSgt Amadiz is a member of the 2005 National Color Guard Championship Team, and C/SMSgt Umana is a member of the 2005 Florida Wing Champion Drill Team.

Capt Linus Gomez is the Commander, Miami Beach Cadet Squadron. Lt Col George Navarini is Chief of Staff for Group 7, FLWG



C/SMSgt Sara Umana and a local WWII Veteran, immediately after the Pearl Harbor Commemoration Ceremony

Photo by Miami Beach Cadet Squadron

poignant. Many of those in attendance were some of the very same men and women who trained on these beaches and later moved to South Florida



with their new families after the War.

Every year the Miami Beach Cadet Squadron Color Guard



O-Rides Approved as Air Force Assigned Missions

From Major General Antonio J. Pineda, CAP Commander

The Air Force has approved cadet orientation flights to once again become Air Force assigned missions. This includes both powered and glider orientation flights and allows appropriated funding to be used for maintenance of CAP assets supporting this program. The NHQ staff is working the implementation details with CAP-USAF and will publish that information

next week. Expect a 1 Jan 2006 date to begin using a new "A" mission symbol for cadet orientation flights. This success is a result of the cooperative efforts of CAP and CAP-USAF working together to solve one of the important issues facing our organization. I would like to personally thank all the people in CAP and CAP-USAF who worked very hard to get approval to make cadet orientation flights Air Force assigned missions.

Reverse Flag Wear on BDU's Approved

Effective immediately cadet and senior members will wear the reverse American flag on the right shoulder of the BDU and CAP distinctive field uniform. This 2" x 3"



gold reverse field flag will be worn centered, 1/2 inch below the shoulder seam on the right sleeve. All patches previously authorized to be worn in this position will be removed.

The Development Committee has been tasked with recommending new placement policy for these optional patches and the National Board is expected to act on their recommendation at the winter meeting in March 2006. Members may begin wearing the flag immediately but the mandatory wear date is 1 June 2006.

SER Calendar Available

The 2006 SER printable calendar is available for download. Visit the SER website and click on the calendar link: ser.cap.gov. The photos celebrate around-the-region activities of the past year that will, hopefully, inspire us to "Make an Impact" in 2006.



Cadets promoted at Orlando Holiday Event

The Central Florida Composite Squadron, Captain Rick Miller commanding, recently celebrated the end of a productive year with their annual Awards Dinner/Holiday Celebration. The event was held at a local restaurant and distinguished attendees included Col Matt Sharkey, SER Commander, and Major John Vredenburg, Group 9 Commander.

Throughout the course of the dinner, members and family had the opportunity to bid on items through a "silent auction." Various books, airplane art, ES equipment, two activity scholar-

ships, and other items were available for bidding. All proceeds from the auctions are to be used to support squadron and its members.

A highlight of the event was the Mitchell presentations to Cadets Jack Miller, Chelsea Weiss and David Eddy. Each of these cadets has participated in



Jack Miller, Chelsea Weiss and David Eddy are promoted to Cadet 2Lt

many cadet activities such as the encampments and National Special Activities.

FL Group 5 Celebrates New Command

By Col Eileen Parker

Col Dan Levitch, Florida Wing Commander, Col Eileen Parker, Florida Wing Vice Commander, and Lt Col Luis Garcia, Florida Wing Director of Operations, visited the first Commanders Call under new Group 5 Commander Maj John Varsames on Saturday, December 10, 2005. The meeting was held in the Skyline Café at the Punta Gorda Airport. Eighteen members were present from Group 5 staff and its squadrons. Col Levitch expressed his gratitude for the hard work and

dedication from all. He spoke about the new A/C maintenance program and also on Recruiting and Retention. The squadrons shared recruiting ideas, and a National Headquarters display, that included brochures, was featured at the meeting. These free brochures are placed in all the libraries, schools, FBO, and more.

The meeting was adjourned and lunch was served, compliments of Maj Varsames. The Command Team then socialized with the members, answered questions, and visited the local Group 5 Head-



Col Dan Levitch, FLWG Commander and Maj John Varsames, Group 5 Commander

quarters located on the Charlotte County Airport airfield.

Col Parker is the FLWG Vice Commander

Cadet Programs

By Major Vickie Meyer

As the recently appointed SER Deputy Chief of Staff for Cadet Programs, I am looking forward to working with each and every one of you from all the Wings within the South East Region, especially at our upcoming SER Cadet Competition. I know that everyone is anxiously holding their breath waiting to hear about the date and location, but unfortunately we have not been able to pinpoint that exact information. I'm working TOWARDS Ft. Benning on March 25-26, but **nothing is set yet**. I'll put the word out as soon as I get it confirmed.



I will need volunteers to help with this activity. If you are willing to help, contact me. I will have a list of jobs, so please let me know your availability and your preferences (i.e. PT, color guard, drill team, escort duty, etc.).

Major Ivan Acosta has agreed to help with the organization and paperwork part of the competition.

He has many years of experience, both as a cadet and a senior member. Capt Alina Garcia is also helping, and brings with her much experience as well. She has taken two color guards to the National competition level. With this amount of experience, and your help, I know this will be the best competition ever!

I do have some dates for you to mark on your calendars:

January 17, the SER CAC will have a conference call scheduled at 2000 hrs EST. For more information on this, please contact Capt Ashlei Hamada at ashlei_hamada@hotmail.com. Capt Hamada is the Senior Advisor for the SER CAC. She is a former Spaatz cadet from Florida Wing, and is also a previous FLWG CAC Chairperson.

On **February 21** and **March 21**, all Wing DCPs and Deputy DCPs are asked to participate in a

conference call at 2000 hrs EST. Please contact me at vmeyer@ser.cap.gov for the specific phone number and extension number. These conference calls will be no more than one hour in duration.

Some of the ideas and goals that I have for the Cadet Program for 2006 are to offer a Training Leaders of Cadets course for the senior members within the SER. I know this is a required course for the Cadet Program track, so I'm working on a location and time for that. If anyone has any ideas, please let me know. I would also like to offer a summer Region Cadet

Leadership School, so again, please give me feed back on this idea.

I welcome all of your ideas and suggestions. I look forward to bringing the SER Cadet Program to its full potential, with your help. Let's work together and make 2006 and the SER the best ever!



FL Mitchell Awards Given

By Lt Col George Navarini

Miami Congresswoman Illeana Ros-Lehtinen (R-FL) presented the General Billy Mitchell Award to two Florida Wing Cadets in ceremonies during the International Harvest

Festival at Palmer Trinity School on November 18, 2005. The Mitchell Award was



Ros-Lehtinen & Cason

presented to Cadet Second Lieutenants Ryan J. Cason, age 15 of Miami Enterprise Cadet Squadron, and Thomas J. Boharsik, age 17 of Palmer-Trinity Cadet Squadron.

In addition to their award certificates, Congresswoman Ros-Lehtinen presented both young men with American Flag that was flown over the U.S. Capitol building. "We are extremely proud of both these young men," said Lt Col Art Giles, Commander of Group Seven, covering Miami-

Dade and Monroe County. "Through their hard work and dedication to the CAP Cadet Program, they are develop-



Ros-Lehtinen and Boharsik

ing into dynamic Americans and aerospace leaders."

"These leadership habits, once mastered, will ensure their success in life, whatever they chose to do," Lt Col Giles added. Both of these cadets were actively involved in Civil Air Patrol's local and state-wide response to hurricanes Dennis, Katrina, and Wilma.

General Billy Mitchell Award

The General Billy Mitchell Award has been in existence since 1964 and is a milestone in the Civil Air Patrol Cadet Program. It is named in honor of the late Brigadier General Billy Mitchell, who was an aviation pioneer, advocate and staunch supporter of an independent Air Force for America. The General Billy Mitchell Award is earned after the completion of the first eight achievements of the Cadet Program. In addition, the cadet must pass a comprehensive 100-question examination covering leadership theory and aerospace topics. The candidate is also required to write a paper and present a speech.

AL Mitchell Is Presented

By 2Lt Lou Enriquez

On December 12, 2005, Luis L. Enriquez received the General Billy Mitchell Award, recipient number 54,189. The Award also promotes Enriquez to C/2Lt

Enriquez has been with Maxwell Composite Squadron since joining Civil Air Patrol. He has advanced through each cadet enlisted grade by successfully completing the structured program of aerospace education, leadership, physical fitness, and moral and ethical values. He has also performed his required duties assigned to him. With diligence and commitment, he has progressed to a cadet officer.

The Award is normally presented by a CAP group commander or higher, the wing director of cadet programs, or a state or federal

government official. Major Joe Curry, Wing Director of Cadet Programs, presented the Award. Lt Col Rob Gaston performed as the Master of Ceremony.



Maj Joe Curry promotes Enriquez to C/2Lt

Presently, Enriquez is special assistant to Squadron Deputy Commander, Lt Col Rob Gaston. He is a freshman at Evangel Family Christian Academy with aspirations of attending the U.S. Air Force Academy and flying fighter planes.

2Lt Enriquez is the PAO, SER-AL-032

Brewer Recipient Honored at AFA

At a recent meeting of the Orlando Florida Air Force Association, Col Matt Sharkey presented Rich Ortega with the Brewer Award (pictured at right), the highest AE award Civil Air Patrol gives for outstanding contributions to Aerospace Education. Ortega is the winner of the 2005 Florida, Southeast Region, and National Brewer Awards.



Moral Leadership

By Chaplain Lt Col Oscar Cope

Avoid the Miss Piggy Syndrome!

One of my comrades in ministry has the uncanny ability to write off-the-wall articles that first get your attention and then find their way into your heart. Recently I felt he was about as confused as a termite in a yo-yo when he wrote about the "Miss Piggy Syndrome."



Most of us remember the Muppet character, Miss Piggy. She was always wanting to buy a new wardrobe or try a new hair-do or hire a good plastic surgeon or even engage a shrink to make a dramatic change in her life. But the bottom line was always this—Miss Piggy was an overweight pig (Sorry, Miss Piggy; no offense intended)!

All of us strive to reach a higher degree of success so we often cast an image of ourselves that is more boisterous, or flamboyant, or intriguing than we really are. Many times we attempt to assume the role and persona of someone else.

But we do not need to become copy cats or mere reflections of someone we are not. When we do this, we are untrue to our own DNA personality. And, of course, we can never be the other person either! (That job is taken!)

One homespun philosopher put it this way: "Always be who you is, 'cause if you ain't who you is, you is who you ain't!" Now I know that is horrible grammar... but ain't it so?!

So what's the point? How does this relate to CAP Chaplains and MLOs in the New Year? In our attempts to cross-train (which are noble), we forget and fail to give

our best efforts to chaplaincy and moral leadership.

Don't misunderstand me—I love to work the radio during a SAREX; I am proud of my Observer Wings and Scanner rating and PAO training. I encourage our Chaplains and MLOs to cross-train.

But let's always remember that chaplaincy and moral leadership is our primary calling, our higher calling. In his book, *Visioneering*, Andy Stanley says, "Everybody winds up somewhere in life. A few people wind up somewhere on purpose. These are the ones with vision."

I challenge you to be a person of vision in 2006! Resist the "Miss Piggy Syndrome." Be that person that God intended you to be! Best wishes in 2006 as you go about serving God and country!

Chaplains and MLOs remember the **Southeast Region Chaplains Service Staff College**, May 1-4, 2006 at Warner Robins Air Force Base. Registration forms will be mailed to you in January. It is imperative that you register; there can be no walk-ons at a military base. I look forward to seeing our Chaplains and MLOs!

DMSP Update

By Chaplain Lt Col Dewey Painter

The total number of care packages sent through combined efforts of our CAP units and others since Desert Storm is now 51,996. We will try to send out the remaining four next week to meet the goal of 52,000 care packages.

We were able to get extra boxes out at the last moment because COMCAST did an area wide drive to collect DVD and Music CD for the troops. It was great to have COMCAST join us as network partners to support the troops.

We have a large push on to send a 40 foot container to the troops in January. We have about 50 percent of the needed materials and 30 percent of the funds needed for the shipping and handling. Several CAP units are active in collecting school supplies for the troops. The Florida Unit deployed in Afghanistan has requested school supplies which they can give the children as they volunteer to rebuild their school buildings. For more details on how you can help go to www.missionlogistics.org or contact Major Crockwell at dcrockwell@comcast.net or Chaplain Painter at chpainterserdmosp@wmconnect.com.

| | Membership Numbers 2005 v 2006 | | | | |
|-------------|--------------------------------|--------|---------|--------|------|
| | Jan 05 | Cadets | Seniors | Jan 06 | +/- |
| Alabama | 1087 | 310 | 739 | 1049 | -38 |
| Florida | 4366 | 1958 | 2143 | 4101 | -265 |
| Georgia | 1846 | 765 | 952 | 1717 | -129 |
| Mississippi | 525 | 202 | 320 | 522 | -3 |
| Puerto Rico | 1234 | 999 | 392 | 1391 | +157 |
| SER HQ | 92 | 0 | 94 | 94 | +2 |
| Tennessee | 1340 | 511 | 710 | 1221 | -119 |
| | 10490 | | | 10095 | |

Troops Get Paperbacks

Lt Col Buddy Harris successfully completed his "Operation Paperback" campaign in December. Volunteers packed five cartons with 100 paperback books in each. The 500 books were personally screened by Harris to meet the Department of Defense and Muslim criteria. Books were contributed by the Edgewater Pointe Estates Library, St. Andrews North Library, St. Andrews South Library, and the Booksellers Store in Deerfield Beach at a discounted price (purchased by Harris). Shipping Boxes and wrapping tape were provided by Bonnie Movers, Inc. of Boca Raton.

Says Harris, "Lt Col Dewey Painter deserves so much of the credit for [inspiring] us."

FL Member Joins Organization

1Lt Leslie Ballard, on behalf of Gainesville Composite Squadron, joined the Alachua County Citizen Corps Council. This will provide the squadron the opportunity to network with other agencies and individuals to recruit potential new members, to receive valuable no-cost training for its members, and to discover opportunities to assist the community.

For more information about the Citizen Corps in your area, or to start a Council in your community, visit www.citizencorps.gov.

TN Groups Share Holiday

By 1Lt Rob Parnell

The five squadrons of Group 2 held their Christmas banquet

in Cleveland, TN.

Senior members and cadets who had earned awards during the year were recognized.

TN WG Commander Col James Rushing and Group 2 Commander Col William Lord presented awards to those members who were unable to receive them during this year's region/wing conference.

Beecher Hunter, Life Care Centers of America Executive VP, gave a report on the success of Operation Christmas Child (OCC). The members have been actively involved in this program for several years as part of their community service agenda.

The group was treated to the first public viewing of a video for OCC that was filmed while CAP National Commander Maj Gen Pineda was in attendance.

1Lt Parnell is a Communication Officer, Cleveland Composite Squadron, TN WG

Read CAP History

By Capt Jim Shaw

Civil Air Patrol has just celebrated its 64th anniversary. This is quite an achievement for an all volunteer program. It is a testament to the spirit and dedication of its members. I would like to take this opportunity to suggest some reading for our members. You don't have to be following the historian specialty track or even have a big desire to become a CAP historical guru but just a curiosity to know.

The first book is *Flying Minute Men of the Civil Air Patrol* by Robert E. Neprud. This is the first real full-length book that gives a detailed description of many of the early CAP activities. It was published in the mid '40s and is sometimes hard to come

by. It was also published under the title *Hero Next Door* in the early '70s.

The next book is *This is your Civil Air Patrol* by C.B. Colby. This is a relatively short book but has some good information about earlier programs and some pretty decent pictures. The book does not go into detail but gives general information about the different activities.

The third book is *From Maine to Mexico* by Lewis E. Keefer. This book goes into great detail about some of the private pilots that helped to fight the German U-Boats along our coast line. Although the book is relatively new it is out of print but available through the Civil Air Patrol Historical foundation. You can

go to caphistory.org and make a donation of about \$20 to get the book. It is excellent reading.

The last I suggest is one I have just purchased. This book is titled *Flying With the Coastal Patrol* by Lewis E. Theiss. Even though the book is fiction I have been told that a lot of the information is pretty good. This book was published in the mid-'40s and is extremely rare and hard to find. I plan on trying to scan this and make it available to our members somehow (copyright permitting).

If you want to learn more please email me and I will be more than happy to help you as best as possible. And by the way "Happy Reading"

Capt Shaw is the SER Historian

Aerospace Education

By LTC Dave Garner

At the beginning of this new year, Aerospace Education Officers should remember that a number of deadlines are approaching. The below is taken from CAPP 15, page 33. If you are a squadron AE officer, or commander, your AE report should have been sent to your state DAE by the end of December. Also **Brewer Award nominations are due to your wing DAE by 15 January.**

State Directors of Aerospace Education should submit your plan of action and yearly reports to national headquarters AE and your region DCS AE by March 1, 2006.

Yearly Deadlines:

Squadron AEOs:

NCASE Crown Circle nominations are to be sent to NHQ/LMA by 1 January

Brewer Award nominations to your wing DAE by 15 January

Squadron AE Activity report to your unit commander and wing DAE by 15 January

A. Scott Crossfield Teacher of the Year nominations to NHQ/LMA by 1 February

Wing DAEs:

NCASE Crown Circle nominations to NHQ/LMA by 1 January

A. Scott Crossfield Teacher of the Year nominations to NHQ/LMA by 1 February

Brewer Awards nominations to your region DCS/AE by 15 February

Approved Wing Plan of Action to your region DCS/AE by 1 March

Approved Wing Plan of Action and Activity Report to NHQ/LMA by 15 March

Region DCS/AEs:

NCASE Crown Circle nominations to NHQ/LMA by 1 January

A. Scott Crossfield Teacher of the Year nominations to NHQ/LMA by 1 February

Brewer Awards nominations to NHQ/LMA by 15 March

I wish to thank all of you for your hard work this year in promoting our aerospace mission and making the Southeast Region the top region in the nation in aerospace education for the ninth year in a row!

LTC Garner is the SER Aerospace Director

Tillmans Found

By 1Lt Kelly Green Sharkey with
Capt Tonya Boylan

The bodies of long-time Rome Composite Squadron member, Maj Gary Tillman, and his 16-year-old daughter Hannah, have been found off the Vilano Beach, Florida coast when a shrimp boat netted the wreckage. Gary and Hannah Tillman have been missing since their 1952 Cessna C-195 crashed on Dec. 18, near St. Augustine, FL.

Two friends, Rachel Hostetler, 16, and Anna Kipp, 16, were picked up shortly after the crash, although only Hostetler survived. She was released from Wolfson Children's Hospital Dec. 19.

Tillman, 47, was owner of the Tillman Insurance Agency. He and the three girls boarded the plane at Richard B. Russell Regional Airport in Rome mid-morning Dec. 17 and left for Craig Airfield in Jacksonville, FL. The group then took off for the Bahamas when the single-engine plane lost communication with air traffic control.

"We are saddened," SER Commander Col Matthew Sharkey shared, "by the loss of one of our members and, of course, his daughter and their young friends."

Continues Sharkey, "Maj Tillman's contributions of leadership and enthusiasm will be mourned by not only the Rome Composite Squadron, but the entire Southeast Region."

Tillman is the son of Lt Col Earl Tillman, also of the Rome Composite squadron and a CAP member since 1956. Major Tillman is survived by his wife Denise and two younger daughters.

A service is planned for Saturday, January 7 at 1 p.m. at the First Baptist Church of Rome.

Administration

By Lt Col Evelyn Holdren

A Review of CAPR 10-1

This is of interest to Commanders and Administrative Officers

CAPR 10-1 covers Administrative communications with details of preparing and processing correspondence. Commanders would want to keep current with this Regulation as they would want communications they sign to be in compliance with 10-1. Admin Officers and others who prepare or process correspondence need to be familiar with all correspondence details so that their product is in compliance with the regulation.

The regulation defines CAP correspondence and military correspondence. An important note is the fact that CAP units should not correspond with any military activity except HQ. CAP-USAF, CAP-USAF Liaison Regions and Wing Liaison Officers. It is possible that other Regulations/Manuals could define specific instances to the contrary. How-



ever the writer should be very familiar with that regulation before proceeding with any correspondence to military units.

CAPR-10-1 provides a complete listing of National Board office symbols, Region Commanders symbols, Corporate Office address symbols, CAP-USAF office symbols and CAP Functional address symbols to assist the writer in properly addressing communications.

Notes regarding clarity, subjects per letter and reference to previous communications provide guidance. Notes for styles of communication authorized for CAP use are also described as well as specimen copies of same. The subject of Suspense control is clearly described. Preparation of proper letterhead is discussed

Attachments covering proper address lines, subject lines and signature lines are included in the information as well as notes to the typist.

This is a very good regulation to guide proper communication preparation. Reading 10-1 can be rewarding and helpful to all.

Lt Col Holdren is the Southeast Region Director of Administration

Flight Crews Trained

By 1Lt Vic Cassella

The FL Wing Patrick Air Force Base Composite Squadron hosted a series of training seminars for new flight crews in east central Florida on December 14, 2005. Flight crews consist of three people: scanner, observer / radio operator, and pilot. The seminars started in late November 2005 and will continue on the second and forth Tuesday monthly until all members in the east central Florida area have completed their training requirements. To receive their certificates, the members will then need to fly two actual or simulated search and rescue missions.



Lt Col Joe Tirado explains search and rescue tactics to senior members in scanner training seminar

Florida SER Spaatz Cadet Named

By Lt Col Alvin Bedgood

Please join me in congratulating Group 8 and Florida Wing's newest Spaatz Cadet.

Cadet Colonel Timothy Medeiros completed his Spaatz examinations on Friday, 16 December, 2005 and the results were posted to CAPWATCH. He has earned Spaatz Certificate 1577.

Cadet Medeiros, among other things, serves as the Group 8 Drug Demand Reduction Officer.

Tim joined CAP in August 1999

and earned the Mitchell Award (48266) in December 2001.

He went on to earn the Earhart Award (11835) in June 2002 and the Eaker Award (1226) in June 2003.

The Spaatz Award will be presented to Cadet Colonel Medeiros at the Group 8 Awards banquet on 14 January 2005.

Cadet Medeiros is an outstanding example for all of us.

Lt Col Alvin Bedgood is the Florida Group 8 Commander

50 Year Member Announced

Col Matthew Sharkey had the pleasure of honoring Col June G Ruth with his 50 Year Membership certificate. Ruth joined CAP on 28 Oct 1955 and worked in multiple specialties, having achieved his Plans and Programs Master Certification. Ruth currently resides in Georgia.



Painter Receives Distinguished Service Award

Chaplain Lt Col Dewey Painter has been awarded the Distinguished Service Award. Painter's exemplary service is in keeping with the finest traditions of military service on all levels and reflects great credit upon himself and CAP. Painter has successfully served his fellow man with distinction as a leader, and a servant. His work with Moral Leadership Officers, the Deployed Support Military Project, and his assistance to disaster victims (including recent Hurricanes) shine as examples of a "life well spent."

When Painter first became the FLWG Chaplain in September of 2001, he saw a need to increase the number of Chaplains and MLOs. He has worked together, and coordinated with, subordinate units to fulfill this need. Together they have increased the numbers from 58 in 2001 to 91 with 53 in the certification process.

Painter has also exerted much effort in the Deployed Military Support Program. This outreach has touched the lives of over

10,000 troops, providing gift bags and letters of support. "You have brightened a few soldiers' lives," says a soldier serving in Iraq. "Painter's support extends beyond the mail project. He recently coordinated a party for 500 troops returning home to Patrick AFB. His commitment to encouraging our military men and women has motivated many to adopt his attitude of generosity."

As Director of Mission Harvest, a Jacksonville-based outreach program, Dr. Painter is responsible for the disbursement of 27 million pounds of food, clothing, and supplies over the years. Most recently the group delivered over 100 truckloads of needed relief items to hurricane victims.

Painter not only works with providing humanitarian aid, but supports the Florida's Cadet Activities and ROTC units. Through procurement of corporate donations, cadet

activities are more affordable for all cadets in the state.

Finally, Painter takes time to help individuals. A chaplain in another state became critically ill and needed a motorized scooter to get around. Chaplain Painter got one donated and arranged for it to be transported. He has also arranged for vehicles, furniture, and housing to be provided for those in need.

It takes dedication, tenacity, and longsuffering to coordinate the myriad projects Painter works each and every day. He is an asset to our organization and is never reluctant to go "above and beyond the call of duty." He is more than willing to do more than asked and confidently lives by faith.

Says Col Sharkey, "As someone who has been personally impacted by his career of service, I can think of no one more worthy than Chaplain Dewey Painter to receive this prestigious award."



Painter and Sharkey

UDF Training Successful

By 2Lt Len Goellner

Members of FLWG Group 3 attended Urban Direction Finder (UDF) training at the Brooksville Composite Squadron located at Hernando County Airport on November 27 and December 3-4, 2005. The training was provided by the FLWG Specialized Response Unit with Lt Col Bruce McConnell as the lead instructor, and Capt Joe Perez, assisting.

Twelve members attended and completed the training, including the two required training missions for sign-off. The class included 10 seniors and two cadets as trainees. The members learned how to use multiple tools to conduct an

effective electronic search, including the use of L'pers (trademark name of an electronic device used to help track emergency signals), scanners and air band radios. The final training mission on Sunday challenged their knowledge and skill as they were given merge co-ordinates and sent out to find an Electronic Locator Transmitter.

Eventually it was identified that the very weak ELT was coming from inside a metal hanger, but that wasn't enough for the members to sign off on their training. Once in the hanger, the members discovered no visible ELT, but there were several closed metal cabinets throughout the hanger. The trainees



FLWG Group 3 members at UDF training. Photo by 2d Lt Len Goellner

were challenged to not only locate which cabinet the ELT was in, but on what shelf and on what side. Only then did the instructors allow the doors to be opened and their success revealed. The class stands ready for tasking, and one can rest assured that when the call comes, they will be successful.

2 Lt Goellner is the Director of Operations, Group 3, FLWG

Valiant Air Command/KSC Tour

By Maj Linda E. Trimpey

On October 13, 2005, seven Group 3 senior members and 23 cadet members toured Valiant Air Command and Cape Canaveral. Their tour guide took them to the restoration hanger where the From Subject Received Size

Tonya Boylan Photo of Gary Tillman3:59 PM 8 KB highlight of the visit was seeing the Grumman F4F Wildcat. This aircraft was at the bottom of Lake Michigan for 50 years before being raised and brought to this restoration facility. The Grumman Gremlins, the restoration team for this aircraft, worked on Wildcats during WWII. Group 3 then toured the hanger of restored aircraft and the memorabilia room. The bus tour of Cape Canaveral took them to sites the general public doesn't see on a Kennedy Space Center tour.

The members stopped at Site 14 where John Glenn, the first American to orbit the earth, launched in his Mercury capsule atop an Atlas rocket. Site 19 was where the Gemini spacecraft launched. The Apollo 1 fire occurred at complex 34. The last stop was at Site 26

where the blockhouse now houses the USAF Space Museum; there is an exhibit hall and outdoor displays of gantries, spacecraft and missiles; this is the only Cape Canaveral site the general public from the KSC tours visits. One of the cadet officers said, "This is the



C/2Lt Jonathan Law, North Tampa Cadet Squadron, takes a flight in a simulator at Valiant Air Command

best Group 3 field trip I've ever taken."

Their guide was Mr. William Dickerson, retired from KSC. Being very knowledgeable about space operations at KSC and Cape Canaveral, he answered all the members questions. Ida Barry, Patrick AFB coordinator of the tour, indicated that she would try

Public Affairs

By 1Lt Kelly Green Sharkey

Writing involves remembering a lot of rules. One was just exemplified. "A lot" is two words. And "it's" means "it is." Always. No exceptions.



So what does one do if he or she is not an editor, or teacher, or professional writer? Does that disqualify someone as a Public Affairs Officer? Certainly not!

As the Director of Southeast Region Public Affairs, it is my hope PAOs will turn in articles and photos with cutlines (the descriptive words that briefly tell who is in the photo, where the photo is taken, and by whom) with or without previous writing experience.

A Public Affairs Officer's job (and every CAP member's too) is to promote the activities performed in our "Missions for America." Non-professional writers should simply write out what happened at an event as if telling the story to a friend. Would you use "fifty cent" words? No. Would you tell who was there and what happened? Yes. Would you keep talking for minutes without taking a breath? No. Would you briefly tell when it happened? Yes.

It's not rocket science (although we encourage hearing about rocket events!).

If you are not sure you're (contraction of "you are") not ready to turn in your (possessive and never "you are") article, think again. Help is available, and just an email away.

Contact me at: kgreen-sharkey@ser.cap.gov

1Lt Sharkey is the Southeast Region Director of Public Affairs

Hero Next Door Newsletter Is Here

By Capt Jim Shaw

The 64th Anniversary edition of the CAP Hero Next Door newsletter is now available on the Southeast Region webpage. It has a lot of good and interesting information about CAP and some of its members. Maj Gen Pineda also included an article as well as a host of many others.

I hope you enjoy the reading. If you have input or suggestions for it please feel free to send it to me. (Email: caphistorian@mchsi.com)

The newsletter will now be published on the alternating months between CAP's new magazine.

Capt Shaw is the SER Historian

SER Organizational Chart

